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Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

Letter dated 12 June 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 15 March 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations, which was circulated as document A/67/803.

The Government of the Argentine Republic rejects in its entirety the content of document A/67/803, whereby the United Kingdom once again contravenes United Nations resolutions on the question of the Malvinas Islands by requesting circulation of a letter from the alleged representatives of a colonial territory that has a transplanted population and is the subject of an internationally recognized sovereignty dispute.

By its resolution 2065 (XX), the General Assembly, having noted the existence of a sovereignty dispute over the Malvinas Islands, invited Argentina and the United Kingdom to resume without delay the negotiations aimed at finding a peaceful solution to the dispute. To that end, it called upon both Governments to bear in mind the objectives of resolution 1514 (XV) — which, having enshrined the principle of territorial integrity, called for an end to colonialism in all its forms and manifestations — and the interests of the population of the Islands. This position has been endorsed by the General Assembly in nine other resolutions. It should be recalled that the interests of those inhabitants and their way of life are adequately protected by the relevant resolutions of that body and by the Constitution of the Argentine Republic, respectively.

Furthermore, recalling each and every one of the General Assembly resolutions referring to the question of the Malvinas Islands, the Special Committee on decolonization, while reaffirming the principle laid down in the Charter of the United Nations that international disputes should be settled by peaceful means, has reiterated in 40 resolutions to date that the way to put an end to the special and particular colonial situation in the Malvinas Islands is through negotiations between Argentina and the United Kingdom.

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The Government of the United Kingdom has refused to engage in the dialogue to which the international community has called both parties to the dispute, thereby neglecting its responsibilities and obligations as a Member of the United Nations. Moreover, it has unilaterally conducted a poll of the settlers it implanted in the Malvinas Islands to consult them on issues that seek to distort the true legal status of these islands, whose predictable outcome merely advocates the perpetuation of the existing colonial situation.

The Argentine Republic wishes to reiterate that the principle of the self-determination of peoples, which is the only argument invoked by the United Kingdom in support of its position and which it raises exclusively in connection with the Malvinas Islands, is totally and evidently irrelevant and inapplicable to the sovereignty dispute over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas.

In Argentina's view, the conduct of a vote among the British citizens residing in the Malvinas Islands in no way alters any aspect of the question of the Malvinas Islands. This same view was expressed by the States members of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States in their special communiqué of 28 January 2013 on the Malvinas Islands, by the Union of South American Nations in its special declaration of 30 November 2012 on the question of the Malvinas Islands, and by the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America in its special communiqué of 20 March 2013.

Argentina fully supports the mandate of the Special Committee on decolonization, a forum in which, after all positions have been aired, and taking into account the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, General Assembly resolutions and the interests of the Islands' population, it is decided, year after year, that the only way to settle the colonial situation of the Malvinas Islands is the resumption of negotiations between Argentina and the United Kingdom.

Therefore, Argentina invites the United Kingdom to assume the responsibility incumbent on it in relation to the United Nations decolonization agenda, in its capacity as the administering Power of 10 of the 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories included in the Committee's programme of work.

Reaffirming the Argentine Republic's legitimate sovereignty rights over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 45, concerning the question of the Malvinas Islands.